Stevens just following orders

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bobby Stevens shot Virginia Tech to victory over Ohio State Monday night strictly on orders from his coach.

"I told him at halftime, he had to establish himself as a point-shooter," said Tech Coach Don DeVoe. "When he finally hit two or three from the outside, it opened up the inside for us."

Stevens collected 14 of his game-high 18 points in the second half as the Gobblers registered a 68-67 victory. The 5-foot-10 senior from Norfolk got most of his buckets shooting over the Buckeyes' 6-foot-9 Wardell Jackson.

There were just two members of the top 20 in action. No. 9 Providence held off Niagara 78-74 and No. 20 Cincinnati suffered its first loss, 88-78 to Arizona State.

"We knew we weren't going to get any breaks, but we have to attribute our trouble to ourselves," said Ohio State Coach Fred Taylor. "Several times we had a four-point lead and threw the ball away by rushing it. We made too many mistakes."

The Buckeyes held a 51-43 lead midway through the second half but Stevens and Charlie Thomas brought the Gobblers to a tie at 57, and Craig Lieder's three-point play with just over three minutes remaining put them on top for good. Jack Wolfe's layup with two seconds left cut Tech's final margin to one point.

"This is the game we had to win," said Stevens. "And the way we won it was great. "When there's time on the clock, we've got a chance."

Lieder finished with 16 points and Thomas 14. Gary Repella topped Ohio State with 12. Tech is now 2-2 and Ohio State is 2-3.

Cincinnati, which lost for the first time in six outings, fell behind at the half and never seriously challenged Arizona State. Reserve Gary Jackson paced the Sun Devils with 21 points while Jesse Jamison netted 22 for the Bearcats.

In other top games, Duquesne beat Athletes in Action 88-78; Oarshall trimmed North Carolina A&T 96-85; Creighton dumped Brigham Young 90-86; Rice downed Houston Baptist 93-88; Utah State defeated Colorado State 74-67; California topped Seattle 66-63; Portland shaded Santa Clara 88-84; and Nevada-Las Vegas trimmed Washington State 58-47.